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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/784,810	02/24/2004	Kenneth H. Kohlndorfer	1022 US	1189

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KEY SAFETY SYSTEMS, INC.
PATENT DEPARTMENT
5300 ALLEN K BREED HIGHWAY
LAKELAND, FL 33811-1130

EXAMINER

KIM, SANG K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3654

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/784,810

Applicant(s)

KOHLNDORFER ET AL.

Examiner

SANG KIM

Art Unit

3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-15 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/1/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 11-13 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kopetzky et al., U.S. Patent No. 5730385.

With respect to claim 1, Kopetzky '385 shows a reel (11) for a seat belt (17); a seat belt retractor (elements incased in the housing 26) for generating a retraction force (k) to rewind the seat belt on said reel; a coupling device (31) for selectively coupling and decoupling said retractor to said reel (i.e. when the line breaks); and a tensioning device (41) for generating a tensioning force in the seat belt when in an active state, said coupling device (31) decoupling said retractor from said reel when said tensioning device is in said active state, see figure 4.

With respect to claim 20, the method described in these claims would inherently result from the use of invention of Kopetzky '385 as advanced above.

With respect to claim 11, Kopetzky '385 shows a reel (11) for a seat belt (17); a seat belt retractor (elements incased in the housing 26) for generating a retraction force (k) to rewind the seat belt on said reel; a retraction force-reducing device (using 16) for reducing the retraction force of said seat belt retractor, said retraction force-reducing device linked to said retractor; a clutch (31) for selectively coupling and decoupling said retractor to said reel (i.e. when the line breaks); and a tensioning device (41) for

Art Unit: 3654

generating a tensioning force in the seat belt when in an active state, said coupling device (31) decoupling said retractor from said reel when said tensioning device is in said active state, see figure 4.

With respect to claim 2, Kopetzky '385 shows a retraction force-reducing device (using 16) for reducing the retraction force of said seat belt retractor, said retraction force-reducing device linked to said retractor

With respect to claims 3 and 12, Kopetzky '385 shows the retraction force-reducing device is linked to reel by a line (13).

With respect to claims 4 and 13, Kopetzky '385 shows the retraction force-reducing device (using 16) to reduce the retraction force variably (i.e. depending on the retraction force caused by the seat belt) on the seat belt from said retractor.

With respect to claim 5, Kopetzky '385 shows a clutch (31) for selectively coupling and decoupling said retractor from said reel (i.e. when the line breaks), see figure 4.

With respect to claim 19, Kopetzky '385 shows a clutch (31) is linked to said reel and said retraction force-reducing device.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 10-11, 13-15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bauer et al., U.S. Patent No. 5181739.

With respect to claim 1, Bauer '739 shows a reel (44) for a seat belt (18); a seat belt retractor (30) for generating a retraction force (36) to rewind the seat belt on said reel; a coupling device (42) for selectively coupling and decoupling said retractor to said

Art Unit: 3654

reel; and a tensioning device (46) for generating a tensioning force in the seat belt when in an active state, said coupling device (42) decoupling said retractor from said reel when said tensioning device is in said active state, see figure 4.

With respect to claim 20, the method described in these claims would inherently result from the use of invention of Bauer '739 as advanced above.

With respect to claim 11, Bauer '739 shows a reel (44) for a seat belt (18); a seat belt retractor (30) for generating a retraction force (36) to rewind the seat belt on said reel; a retraction force-reducing device (using 40) for reducing the retraction force of said seat belt retractor, said retraction force-reducing device linked to said retractor; a coupling device (42) for selectively coupling and decoupling said retractor to said reel; and a tensioning device (46) for generating a tensioning force in the seat belt when in an active state, said coupling device (42) decoupling said retractor from said reel when said tensioning device is in said active state, see figure 4.

With respect to claim 2, Bauer '739 shows a retraction force-reducing device (using 16) for reducing the retraction force of said seat belt retractor, said retraction force-reducing device linked to said retractor

With respect to claims 4 and 13, Bauer '739 shows the retraction force-reducing device (using 40) to reduce the retraction force variably (i.e. depending on the retraction force caused by the seat belt) on the seat belt from said retractor, see figure 4.

With respect to claim 5, Bauer '739 shows the coupling device with a clutch (42) for selectively coupling and decoupling said retractor from said reel.

Art Unit: 3654

With respect to claims 6 and 14 Bauer '739 shows the clutch comprises a first clutch plate (74) for selectively engaging a second plate (76), said first clutch plate is linked to said retractor and said second clutch plate linked to said reel.

With respect to claims 7,10,15 and 18, Bauer '739 shows a spring (77) for biasing a first clutch plate (74) into contact with said second plate (76).

With respect to claim 19, Bauer '739 shows a clutch (42) is linked to said reel and said retraction force-reducing device.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-9 and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. For example, see U.S. Patent No. 5244231.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANG KIM whose telephone number is 571-272-6947. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. alternating Friday.

Art Unit: 3654

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki, can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SK

4/14/05


KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600